

December 30, 1965

Memo to: Dean Martha Peterson
From: Ruth Doyle
Re: Negro students.

Scholarships. At our meeting some time ago, we agreed that applications for scholarships would be sent to me, on the regular financial assistance blanks. Those which appear to have special circumstances that would make them ineligible for federal, state, or University grants will be held by me for special consideration.

Those which appear to fall within the regular assistance ranges will be forwarded to Wally Downs.

I have called him about this, and he has agreed that I should have some of the forms, but so far we haven't gotten together. I will pursue this at once.

Admissions. We are getting inquiries about admissions of Negro students, and some special questions have been raised by the SNCC office in Atlanta. I have had a long talk with Wayne Kuckkahn, and here are his suggestions.

1. Question: There are a few students in one community (that we are aware of) who are boycotting the local segregated high school. They are completing their senior year in a freedom school, which is considered to be well staffed, but they will not have recognized high school diplomas. Is it possible for these students to take equivalency tests in English, biology, math, U.S. history and chemistry to determine whether they are admissable to the University of Wisconsin?

Answer: These determinations would have to be made by the academic Deans. It is possible that some tests, such as the College Boards, could be used, if the Deans approve, for determining admissability. It would seem appropriate not to raise this question with the Deans until there are specific requests from students applying.

2. Question: Some students who have participated in the protest movement feel that they might not be able to get recommendations from the principals of newly integrated schools to submit with their applications. Could this requirement be waived?

Answer: If evidence is presented to explain the absence of recommendations, it could be waived in particular cases -- assuming, of course, that the students are admissable in all other respects.

3. Question: Could application forms be sent to the SNCC office in Atlanta to be picked up by students there?

Answer: While Wayne Kuckkahn and I agreed that it is generally better for a student to ask for the form himself, and to undertake the whole job himself (as a part of the educational process of the University), application forms have been distributed to high schools, etc., and could be sent to Atlanta too.

4. Question: The \$10 filing fee is apt to be a stumbling block to some impoverished students. SNCC and other organizations can assist with it, but would prefer not to waste their money on students who turn out to be inadmissable for academic reasons. Could the payment of this fee be postponed until a student

Memo to Dean Peterson
Dec. 30, 1965

page 2

is notified of his acceptance?

Answer: This can be done. Wayne Kuckkahn suggests that students be encouraged to send their application forms directly to me, with explanations of all the special circumstances above, so that I can take them over personally to prevent their getting lost in the shuffle.

I emphasized in our discussion my own determination that we are not to interfere with the standards of admissability, but only with the procedures, because of the special circumstances involved with these particular students.

SNCC has sent a list of about 25 students which it feels are generally able to do University work. They find them through their community contacts. Some are high school seniors, some potential transfers.